



# DSC study of hydration and water-holding behaviour of cultured *in vitro* mycelium and naturally grown fruiting bodies of freeze-dried *Boletus badius*, *Agaricus bisporus* and *Cantharellus cibarius*

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## Abstract

The aim of the study was to calculate the content of non-freezing water (NFW) as well as amount of water associated with the evaporation process ( $N_{ev}$ ) in the chosen species of fungi. The study focused on lyophilized *in vitro* mycelium and commonly cultivated mushrooms *Agaricus bisporus*, *Boletus badius* and *Cantharellus cibarius*. Both NFW and  $N_{ev}$  were examined by means of differential scanning calorimetry (DSC). The above-mentioned types of water are important components of the state diagram that is a kind of functional graph helping in identifying food stability during storage and selecting suitable conditions of temperature and moisture content for processing. The content of non-freezing water in all examined samples ranged between 0.19 and 0.31 g g<sup>-1</sup>. The estimated amount of water associated with the evaporation process was found to be between 0.05 and 0.13 g g<sup>-1</sup>. The obtained results were variable and highly dependent on fungus species, origin (*in vitro* mycelium vs cultivated) and content of accumulated metals. The influence of these factors is discussed. In order to determine statistical significance, selected samples were measured at least 5 times; the relative standard of deviation (%RSD) did not exceed 4.45 of measured enthalpies. In the group of mycelium from *in vitro* cultures, the DSC method was used for the first time. The publication also compared the NFW and  $N_{ev}$  values with those obtained for naturally grown fruiting bodies of the same species.

**Keywords** DSC · Non-freezing water · Water evaporation · *Agaricus bisporus* · *Cantharellus cibarius* · *Boletus badius*

## Introduction

State diagram is a kind of graph identifying and visualizing different regions of food as a function of water (or solids) content and temperature. In other words, it is an useful tool showing the complex changes of food while water content and/or temperature is changed. It is also suitable in selecting optimal conditions for further food processing. The idea of state diagram combines water activity and glass transition concepts and was probably used for the first time by Levine et al. [1], widely exploited by other scientific research

groups [2–4] and then modified by Rahman [5]. One of the important components of state diagram is non-freezing water (NFW) [6–10], defined as a strongly bounded fraction that is not able to crystallize [11, 12] and where typical exothermic peak cannot be calorimetrically measured. The appropriate low water contents found in the hydrophilic polymer are considered to be non-freezing [11]. Water binding is associated with hydrogen bonding and the presence of “nanocavities” formed in the matrix [11]. Depending on water concentration and grade of polymer chains, it can lead to form new reversible and stable structures [13]. Moreover, content of NFW distinctly increases when ionic groups are present in the polymer structure [14]. Berthold et al. [15] concluded that the counter-ion favouring water adsorption is Li<sup>+</sup>, followed, in decreasing order of efficiency, by Na<sup>+</sup>, K<sup>+</sup>, Ca<sup>2+</sup> and H<sup>+</sup>.

Generally, the storage of food is associated with its initial processing. Very often, this involves vaporization of water during a thermal drying, whereas other methods such as sublimation are less frequently used. Removing of

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free water is held at a temperature up to 100 °C. However, vaporization of water strongly attached to polymer chains by hydrophilic groups could be observed at temperature higher than 100 °C. For example, for samples containing both non-freezing and free water, Hatakeyama et al. [16] reported two states of vaporization in TG studies. The first was terminating lower than 100 °C, and the second was ranging from 147 to 197 °C. An agreement between the results of differential thermal analysis and the mass decrease obtained by TG was confirmed in other investigations of the same author [17]. Thus, in a similar way as non-freezing, the water associated with the evaporation process ( $N_{ev}$ ) can be considered as water that remains in the material at temperatures significantly exceeding 100 °C or even 140 °C. The measured enthalpy of vaporization ( $\Delta H$ ) is considered as the energy required to evaporate absorbed molecules of water from hydrated material and can be normalized using mass of either dry sample or water. In this research, we used the first method, since it is recommended by Kučerík et al. [18]. In his opinion, it reflects better the mutual interactions between polysaccharide chains and water.

In this way, evaporation of water can be an additional approach to characterize the hydration and water-holding behaviour of mushroom materials. It is suggested that  $N_{ev}$  content could be an useful complement of the state diagram in the part describing water evaporation from the liquid and solid phases. Rahman illustrated this segment with respective lines MD and DP (Fig. 1 [5]).

Selected edible mushroom species, both in vitro and natural origin, as *Agaricus bisporus*, *Boletus badius* and *Cantharellus cibarius*, are known as highly valued source of vitamins (especially riboflavin, ergocalciferol), bioelements (for example, selenium, magnesium, copper, iron, calcium, zinc and potassium) [19–25] and antioxidant substances (phenols, flavonoids, terpenes, steroids, carotenoids) [26–28]. For that reason, optimal drying and freezing data for further processing are necessary in the maintenance of chemical and microbiological stability of mushrooms under study.

The aim of the study was to calculate the content of non-freezing water NFW as well as amount of water associated with the evaporation process  $N_{ev}$  in the chosen species of lyophilized in vitro *mycelium* and commonly cultured mushrooms *Agaricus bisporus*, *Boletus badius* and *Cantharellus cibarius*. In the research, the differential scanning calorimetry method was used. The technique was previously applied in various synthetic and semi-synthetic polysaccharides [14, 29–32]. In the group of *mycelium* from in vitro cultures, the method was used for the first time. The publication also compared the NFW and  $N_{ev}$  values with those obtained for naturally grown fruiting bodies of the same species.

## Materials and methods

### Mushrooms samples

The in vitro *mycelium* material of *Agaricus bisporus*, *Cantharellus cibarius* and *Boletus badius* was obtained from Department of Pharmaceutical Botany, Pharmaceutical Faculty, Medical College, Jagiellonian University, as a gift. The naturally grown fruiting bodies of these mushrooms were purchased in local vegetable shops.

### Sample preparation

The freeze-dried in vitro *mycelium* and naturally grown fruiting bodies of *Agaricus bisporus*, *Cantharellus cibarius* and *Boletus badius* material were additionally dried over phosphorus (V) oxide in desiccator. After 6-week-long storage, the mushroom material (about 28–46 mg) was placed in sample pans and the excess of Milli-Q water was added. In order to obtain the desired water content, defined by a  $W_c$  factor (the ratio of mass of water to mass of dry mushroom), the water was allowed to evaporate slowly at room temperature. In further investigations, the samples of known  $W_c$  ranging from 0.2 to 3.5 g g<sup>-1</sup> (18 different concentrations) were used. The homogeneous hydrated material of about 8–9 mg was quickly transferred to aluminium sample pans and immediately hermetically sealed. To reach an equilibrium state, all obtained samples were conditioned at room temperature for about 30 h. The crucibles with mushroom material were weighted before and after each measurement to insure that there is no loss of mass.

In order to protect from spontaneous reactions with water, the aluminium sample pans were previously passivated in an autoclave at 120 °C for 3 h.

### DSC analysis

The DSC experiments were performed in nitrogen atmosphere with a flow rate of 50 mL min<sup>-1</sup>, using EXSTAR DSC 7020 apparatus (Hitachi Inc.) equipped with immersion cooler ULSP 90 (ULSP BV). The DSC instrument was calibrated with 99.9999% indium and high purity Milli-Q water. The measurements were carried out using the following thermal protocol: starting at 20 °C, cooling from 20 to -60 °C at 3 °C min<sup>-1</sup>, isothermal at -60 °C for 5 min, and heating from -60 to 20 °C at 3 °C min<sup>-1</sup>. The evaporation studies were realized using the same samples; however, in each run, covering lids were perforated and the nitrogen flow rate was reduced to about 5 mL min<sup>-1</sup>. The thermal procedure was as follows: starting at 20 °C, cooling from 20 to -40 °C at 5 °C min<sup>-1</sup>, and heating from -40 to 150 °C at

3 °C min<sup>-1</sup>. The purpose of freezing the sample pans before the evaporation investigations was to identify the onset of evaporation easier.

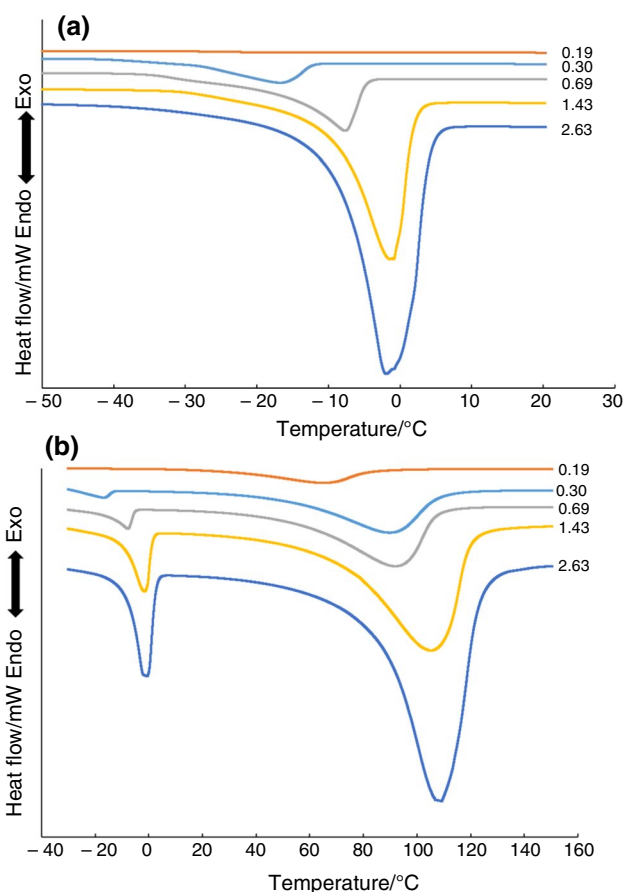
The measured enthalpies both of melting and evaporating were first normalized to the mass of the dry mushroom material and then plotted against the respective water concentration ( $W_c$ ). In this way, expected linear dependences  $\Delta H = f(W_c)$  were obtained. The NFW and  $N_{cv}$  contents were estimated by extrapolation  $\Delta H$  to 0 ( $\Delta H = 0$ ).

The interpretation of DSC experiments was performed using Muse Measurement v 9.21U software. Due to observed baseline shifts and nonlinearities, the determination of melting as well as evaporating enthalpies was carried out using a T-Slice Analysis (Integral Tangential). In order to reduce experimental errors, DSC runs were repeated three times and averaged. To determine statistical significance, selected samples were measured at least 5 times. The results were expressed as the relative standard deviation (%RSD) and did not exceed 4.45 of measured enthalpies.

## Results and discussion

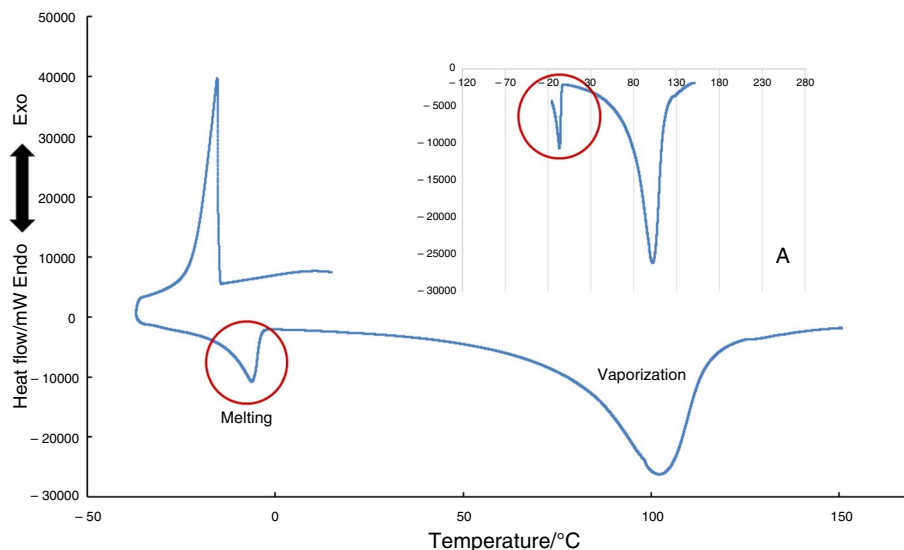
Figure 1 shows a representative DSC run, obtained from hydrated sample of mushroom under study. One can see that immediately after melting, the vaporization process is starting. This interesting phenomenon is marked with the red circle. The subfigure (A) additionally emphasizes it. A similar shape of curves was also reported by other authors [13, 30, 32, 33].

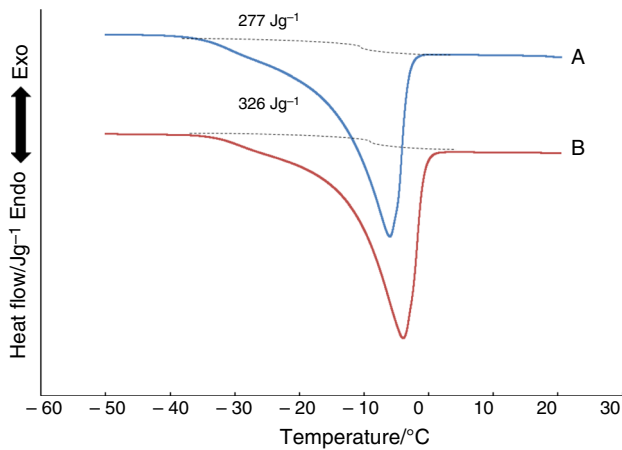
The typical stack of DSC curves, illustrating changes in enthalpies with various concentrations of water, obtained during the melting and evaporating processes is displayed in Fig. 2. As it was expected, with increasing water content



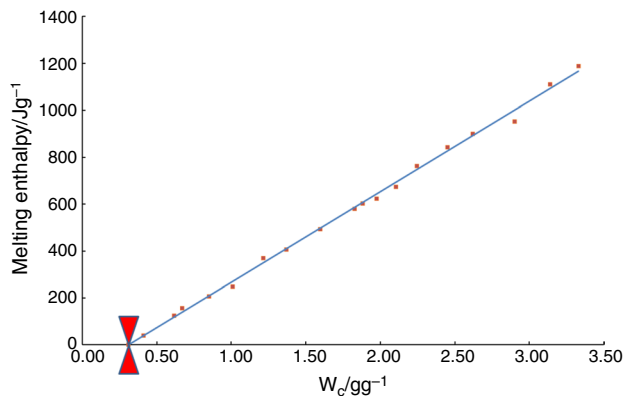
**Fig. 2** Representative DSC runs of melting (a) and evaporating (b); displayed DSC curves were obtained from *Agaricus bisporus* cultured samples; the numbers beside each curve are associated with water content  $W_c$

**Fig. 1** Typical and representative example of DSC run observed during the studies. The red circle points the area of ending of the melting process and the immediate start of evaporation process—the subfigure (A) additionally emphasizes observed phenomenon. Displayed curve was obtained from in vitro mycelium of freeze-dried *Boletus badius* with water content  $W_c = 1.3 \text{ g g}^{-1}$ . The evaporation studies were realized using the same samples; however, in each run, covering lids were perforated





**Fig. 3** The DSC curves obtained for naturally grown fruiting bodies (a) and in vitro mycelium (b) of freeze-dried *Boletus badius*—both samples with a similar water content about  $W_c \sim 1.3 \text{ g g}^{-1}$ .  $\Delta H$  of melting is  $277 \text{ J g}^{-1}$  and  $326 \text{ J g}^{-1}$  respectively



**Fig. 4** The determined enthalpies of melting vs respective contents of water  $W_c$  represented linear dependences. The non-freezing water NFW values calculated after extrapolation ( $\Delta H=0$ ) are marked with red sign. The figure shows an example obtained for cultured *Agaricus bisporus*

in the samples, the peak of temperature is shifted towards higher temperatures and peak area under the curve increases.

Figure 3 shows some representative examples of DSC runs, obtained from hydrated ( $W_c$  about  $1.3 \text{ g g}^{-1}$ ) naturally grown fruiting bodies (A) and in vitro mycelium (B) of freeze-dried *Boletus badius*. It demonstrates differences of melting enthalpies state during the study. One can see that in vitro sample is characterized by higher value of  $\Delta H = 326 \text{ J g}^{-1}$  when compared to commonly cultivated counterpart from natural sources  $277 \text{ J g}^{-1}$ . All other samples behaved similarly.

As it was formerly mentioned, the measured enthalpies of both processes were firstly normalized to the dry mass of mushroom material and then plotted against the respective water concentration  $W_c$ . Figure 4 shows an appropriate and typical example of such a relationship. One can see a linear increase in the enthalpy with increasing  $W_c$ . The obtained linear  $\Delta H = f(W_c)$  correlation is strong enough; thus, the non-freezing NFW can be estimated after extrapolation  $\Delta H$  to 0 ( $\Delta H=0$ ).

A very good fit with the high linear regression was also observed for investigated evaporation processes. The obtained values of NFW and  $N_{ev}$  with parameters of linearization and confidence coefficients  $R^2$  for all studied samples are listed in Tables 1 and 2. The linear trend was maintained throughout the measuring range.

The content of non-freezing water calculated for all studied mushroom samples was ranging from  $0.19$  to  $0.31 \text{ g g}^{-1}$  (Table 1). The highest value was found for cultured fruiting body of *A. bisporus* ( $0.31 \text{ g g}^{-1}$ ) that fit in with  $0.30 \text{ g g}^{-1}$  obtained by Guizani et al. [8]. The NFW values of *B. badius* and *C. Cibarius* from same group were smaller and equal to  $0.23$  and  $0.22 \text{ g g}^{-1}$  respectively. Whereas the content of non-freezing water is influenced, among others, by the type and concentration of dissolved ions, this disparity may be a result of a different forest and greenhouse substrate composition. The fact that mushrooms are able to accumulate elements from the

**Table 1** Contents of non-freezing water NFW (in g of water per 1 g of dry mass) determined for mushroom species under study;  $\Delta H = a \times W_c + b$ ;  $R^2$  stands for confidence coefficient

Mushroom species	Cultured or natural origin			In vitro cultures		
	Parameters $a$ ; $b$	$R^2$	NFW	Parameters $a$ ; $b$	$R^2$	NFW
<i>Boletus badius</i>	356.3; -82.8	0.9977	0.23	364.0; -69.7	0.9978	0.19
<i>Cantharellus cibarius</i>	361.5; -78.3	0.9962	0.22	400.6; -103.5	0.9970	0.26
<i>Agaricus bisporus</i>	384.5; -117.6	0.9982	0.31	369.5; -71.8	0.9982	0.19

**Table 2** Contents of water  $N_{ev}$  determined from evaporation experiments (in g of water per 1 g of dry mass), calculated for mushroom species under study;  $\Delta H = a \times W_c + b$ ;  $R^2$  stands for confidence coefficient

Mushroom species	Cultured or natural origin			In vitro cultures		
	Parameters $a$ ; $b$	$R^2$	$N_{ev}$	Parameters $a$ ; $b$	$R^2$	$N_{ev}$
<i>Boletus badius</i>	2525.7; 209.7	0.9952	0.08	2538.7; 116.4	0.9975	0.05
<i>Cantharellus cibarius</i>	2292.8; 208.8	0.9971	0.09	2491.9; 222.9	0.9958	0.09
<i>Agaricus bisporus</i>	2532.9; 180.7	0.9970	0.07	2282.0; 298.7	0.9973	0.13

environment explains their attractiveness for researchers. The essential elements are K, P, Mg, Ca, Na, Zn, Cu, Mn, Ni and Co. K, P and Mg are present at levels of mg g<sup>-1</sup> dry matter (DM), while Na, Zn, Ca, Fe, Cu, Mn, etc., are present at µg g<sup>-1</sup> DM [25]. It is clear that the cations with the highest concentration will play a key role in the investigated water-holding processes (Table 3).

One can see that the highest total concentration of both potassium, magnesium and sodium can be found for *A. bisporus*. This fact allows to understand why this species is distinguished by the highest NFW. Interestingly, the NFW content of in vitro mycelium was found to be 0.19 g g<sup>-1</sup> only. It clearly shows that the essence of greenhouse production is associated with rapid growth and high mass of the product. For other mycelium in vitro cultures, the highest NFW content was calculated for *C. cibarius* (0.26 g g<sup>-1</sup>). This fact should be combined with a higher, when compared to the others species, total content of divalent Mg, Zn, Cu and Fe, which is able to be present as di- and trivalent counter-ion as well.

For comparison purposes, the non-freezing water contents calculated for other food materials as cultured fruits, vegetables, meat, fish and bread are collected in Table 4. It can be noted that they are characterized by a large diversity. For example, NFW value of carrot sample was only 0.08 g g<sup>-1</sup> while of King fish muscles was as much as 0.37 g g<sup>-1</sup>. The meat of a fish has much more NFW than the meat of a wild forest mammal (reindeer) (0.15 g g<sup>-1</sup>), although it is difficult to draw conclusions from two examples only. The non-freezing water-holding behaviour of the vegetables (except for carrot) is ranging from 0.20 g g<sup>-1</sup> for garlic powder to 0.32 g g<sup>-1</sup> for broccoli. One can see that those contents are higher than can be found for cultured fruits ranging from 0.16 g g<sup>-1</sup> for raspberries and mango to 0.27 g g<sup>-1</sup> for pineapple.

**Table 4** Contents of non-freezing water NFW (in g of water per 1 g of dry mass) determined for food samples as cultured fruits, vegetables, meat, fish and bread

Food sample	NFW/ g g <sup>-1</sup>	References
<i>Cultured fruits</i>		
Raspberries	0.16	[35]
Mango	0.16	[36]
Pineapple	0.27	[37]
Grape	0.20	[38]
Strawberry	0.18	[38]
Mature dates	0.22	[39]
<i>Cultured vegetables</i>		
Garlic powder	0.20	[40]
Carrot	0.08	[41]
Onion	0.25	[38]
Broccoli	0.32	[42]
<i>Meat and fish</i>		
Reindeer meat	0.15	[41]
King fish whole muscle	0.37	[43]
<i>Other</i>		
White bread	0.23	[41]

Comparing to non-freezing water, the effect of ions on the contents of  $N_{ev}$  is associated with different mechanism. Průšová et al. [31] pointed out that the presence of ions with fixed dimension and surface charge makes the structure more “rigid”. This confirms earlier research [44] associated with the influence of pore (“nanocavities”) size on the character and quantity of water in the non-freezing water layer. Due to the presence of ions, each nanocavity has a stable diameter. The more the cations, the more pores with a fixed diameter can be found. In other words and temporarily excluding the effect of water binding by

**Table 3** Contents of elements in dried fruiting bodies and in vitro mycelium of *Boletus badius*, *Cantharellus cibarius* and *Agaricus bisporus*

Mushroom species	Origin	Cu/µg g <sup>-1</sup> DW	Mg/µg g <sup>-1</sup> DW	Zn/µg g <sup>-1</sup> DW	Fe/µg g <sup>-1</sup> DW	Na/µg g <sup>-1</sup> DW	K/µg g <sup>-1</sup> DW
<i>A. bisporus</i>	Fruiting bodies	34.50 ± 11.78 [24]	1735.10 ± 419.22 [24]	82.91 ± 23.33 [24]	82.39 ± 51.84 [24]	760–860 [22]	59,000 ± 2000 [25]
	In vitro mycelium	10.51 ± 6.28 [24]	458.54 ± 96.71 [24]	146.10 ± 30.19 [24]	141.39 ± 57.32 [24]	2000 [24]	5900 [34]
<i>C. cibarius</i>	Fruiting bodies	43.57 ± 3.90 [23]	1004.00 ± 64.72 [23]	95.46 ± 9.98 [23]	402.33 ± 105.13 [23]	83 ± 51 [25]	56,000 ± 2000 [25]
	In vitro mycelium	12.47 ± 8.41 [23]	541.67 ± 113.01 [23]	131.93 ± 21.57 [23]	457.9 ± 173.82 [23]	200 [23]	5600 [34]
<i>B. badius</i>	Fruiting bodies	43.55 ± 10.16 [23]	906.42 ± 88.18 [23]	172.08 ± 29.76 [23]	256.75 ± 106.91 [23]	470 ± 70 [25]	43,000 ± 2000 [25]
	In vitro mycelium	4.17 ± 1.09 [23]	928.92 ± 103.94 [23]	442.70 ± 174.11 [23]	693.48 ± 405.47 [23]	–	4300 [34]

DW stands for dry weight; some data are presented as the mean ± SD



hydrogen bonds, if the size of pore is small enough, such a space can trap water molecules more firmly and for that reason the enthalpy of evaporation is larger than if the size of pore is larger. In such a situation, enthalpy of evaporation is accordingly smaller, because water molecules can desorb from the matrix more easily.

In the group of mushrooms of cultured or natural origin, the appropriate values of  $N_{ev}$  were comparable and were 0.08, 0.09 and 0.07 g g<sup>-1</sup> for *Boletus badius*, *Cantharellus cibarius* and *Agaricus bisporus*, respectively (Table 2). Calculated amounts lead to the conclusion that the internal structure formed by the fungal polysaccharide chains, in combination with the concentration of cations and relatively low NFW values, created conditions favourable easy desorption of water molecules from the matrix.

With the exception of *A. bisporus*, very similar  $N_{ev}$  values were obtained in the group of in vitro mycelium -0.05 and 0.09 g g<sup>-1</sup> for *B. badius* and *C. cibarius*, respectively. However, *A. bisporus* is an example that confirms the correctness of previously observed relationships. The calculated amount of water associated with the evaporation process was equal to 0.13 g g<sup>-1</sup>. This is understandable because the samples from this material had the highest total content of cations as well as the highest content of NFW.

Similar studies for other food materials have not been met in the literature.

## Conclusions

The contents of non-freezing water NFW and water associated with the evaporation process  $N_{ev}$  of lyophilized in vitro mycelium and commonly cultivated mushrooms *Agaricus bisporus*, *Boletus badius* and *Cantharellus cibarius* were successfully estimated using a new, in this area of biological samples, differential scanning calorimetry technique. The obtained results were variable and highly dependent on fungus species, origin (in vitro mycelium or cultivated) and content of accumulated metals ions. It was stated that the concentration of NFW increased with the increase in the content of cations. Measured amounts of  $N_{ev}$  were low for all investigated samples, suggesting that the non-freezing water consists mostly of water molecules interacting with sorption sites not trapped in pores.

The above-mentioned water contents are important components of the state diagram, which could be used in identifying mushroom stability during storage or selecting suitable conditions of temperature and moisture content for processing.

## Compliance with ethical standards

**Conflict of interest** The authors Przemysław Talik, Joanna Piwowarczyk, Bożena Muszyńska and Urszula Hubicka declare that they have no conflict of interest.

**Ethical approval** This article does not contain any studies with human participants or animals performed by any of the authors.

**Informed consent** Informed consent is not applicable in this study.

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